

UPDATED: 09/03/1999

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PHOTO PROCESSING FACILITIES

Best management practices can be thought of using “good housekeeping” practices. Listed below are several procedures to operate your facility and minimize the risk of contamination to the environment.

Waste disposal

1. Waste film processing solutions may be disposed of to sanitary sewer after silver recovery has taken place and if this waste meets sanitary sewer standards. If this facility is not served by sanitary sewer, film-processing solutions must be collected and disposed of by an approved hauler. This waste cannot be discharged to septic tank, with or without silver recovery.
 - a. There are several different types of silver recovery unit. The most common are electrolytic, ion exchange and metallic replacement. All can be used separately or in combination. However, the electrolytic unit alone is insufficient. Equipment maintenance is very important in assuring the unit works properly
2. Slide processing, using ferricyanide bleach, requires pretreatment of the slide processing wastewater. This wastewater may not be discharged to sanitary sewer without pretreatment. This waste cannot be discharged to septic tank, with or without pretreatment.
3. In all cases when a hazardous waste is generated, a permitted hazardous waste transporter must be used to transport the waste to a federally approved hazardous waste disposal or treatment facility. Hazardous waste manifests must be kept at your facility, available for review. The facility generating the hazardous waste is required to obtain an Environmental Protection Agency identification number unless classified as a conditionally exempt generator by contacting:

Notification Coordinator
Bureau of Waste Planning and Regulation
Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
Twin Towers Office Building, Room 471
Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400
(904) 488-4805

4. All hazardous waste must be disposed of via a permitted hazardous waste transporter and taken to a federally approved hazardous waste disposal facility. Receipt of all waste disposals and hazardous waste manifests must be retained for no less than three (3) years, at the generator's facility and are available for review.
5. In large storage areas, there must be aisle space between storage products. This will enable inspection of the container for leaks and/or corrosion. Incompatible chemicals or materials should be stored separately.

6. Facilities generating more than ten (10) spent fluorescent and/or high-intensity discharge lamps per month must have them recycled. These lamps cannot be disposed off in the regular trash. Spent lamps must be stored in a safe location in order to prevent them from breaking.

Storm drain

1. Special attention should be paid to storm drain locations (also known as storm sewers). Storm drains are designed to help alleviate rainwater build up. These drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer system, but rather discharge to the ground and groundwater. Therefore, no discharges other than rainwater are to go to these storm drains. These areas should be kept free of all contaminants to prevent spillages into these drains.

Storage

For storing large amounts of chemicals and/or fuels:

1. All chemical and fuel storage areas must be contained within an impervious bermed or walled area capable of containing 110% of the volume of the largest single storage tank within the secondary containment area.
2. Chemical storage areas must be on an impervious surface with secondary containment or a bermed and covered area away from drainage structures (e.g. floor drains or storm drains)

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All photo-processing facilities are required to obtain an Annual Pollution Control Operating Permit. Questions will be answered by the Industrial Facilities Section at 372-6600.